

ISAKSON, Johnny (Republican)
Representative, 6th District, Georgia
Elected 23Feb99 to 106th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Atlanta, Georgia - 27 December 1944
Home: Marietta, Georgia
Marital status: Married (Dianne) - 3 children
Religion: Methodist
Education: Univ of Georgia, BBA, 1966
Military: Air National Guard, 1966-72
Profession: Real estate company president

Political: Georgia House of Representatives, 1976-90, GOP Leader 1983-90; GOP gubernatorial nominee, 1990; Georgia Senate, 1993-96; sought GOP nomination to US Senate, 1996. Won 23Feb99 special election with 65% of the vote to succeed House Speaker Newt Gingrich who resigned. Sworn in 25Feb99. Reelected in 2000 with 75% of the vote and in 2002 with 80%.

Rep Isakson, a GOP moderate, prides himself on his reputation as a bipartisan consensus builder. During 17 years as a Georgia state legislator, Isakson proved himself a skillful arbitrator, bridging gaps within the Republican Party and forging links between the GOP and state Democrats. Some believe he could capitalize on his work in the Georgia statehouse, and his 30-year career in real estate to work on growth policy and regional planning. Isakson made the leap to national politics with the approving nod of his predecessor Gingrich who has called him "a very close personal friend." Critics have painted him as a moderate on social issues, mostly because of his stance against banning abortion. Isakson said the lesson in his 65% margin of victory is that his constituents want a negotiator to free up federal funds to protect the environment, unlock traffic and keep C-130Js rolling out of Lockheed Martin Aeronautical Systems in Marietta.

In the 106th Congress, made remarks on the House floor in support of the F-22. Said "Technology is expensive, but to assume that we would not have to upgrade our tactical abilities in the 21st century would be foolish." Asserted that "the F-22 aircraft is vital for our national security. Our ability to knock out radar, surface-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft weapons early is what allows the rest of the United States military to act precisely and without loss of lives or deployment of ground troops. The F-15, which the F-22 would replace, does not have the stealth capability of the F-22. The increased stealth capability of the F-22 is necessary to evade radar so that we can continue to effectively maximize our military interests without hindrance." Commented on the 25th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. Responding to a Wall Street Journal article questioning the future of the Lockheed facility in Marietta, said Lockheed officials emphasized there were no plans to shut it down. Believed there was a need for humanitarian assistance for Kosovo, but insisted "we have got to establish European participation before we start writing checks." In the 107th Congress called for greater disclosure of provisions added to conference reports as a means of forcing members to defend certain funding. In the 108th Congress announced that he would seek the US Senate seat being vacated by Sen Zell Miller (D) in January 2005. Supported the FY03 emergency supplemental approps bill, stating that it fully funded activities in Operation Iraqi Freedom and first responders at home. Voiced pleasure that the HASC maintained its commitment to the F/A-22 program in the FY04 DoD authorization bill.

Additional: Member, AF Caucus, House Navy/MarineCorps Caucus, Military Veterans Caucus
AF Bases: None

COMMITTEES

EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE – Subcs on: 21st Century Competitiveness – Vice-Chmn;
Workforce Protections

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE – Subcs on: Aviation; Highways, Transit &
Pipelines; Water Resources & the Environment